



Focus

Clean Air Guidelines

Building and Construction Projects

Background

The rapid growth occurring in some areas of eastern Washington means more development and construction will take place. Although growth is healthy for our communities and economy, the air pollution often generated by construction can be unhealthy for residents. This focus sheet provides an overview of the current air quality regulations affecting building and construction projects, and suggestions for reducing emissions.

Fugitive dust

Dust that is emitted from a source such as a building and construction site is referred to as "fugitive dust." Unpaved roads and driveways, as well as dirt tracked or deposited onto paved roads, can also be a significant source of airborne dust.

Breathing small particle matter such as dust can cause lung damage and aggravate existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, bronchitis or emphysema.

Requirements for controlling fugitive dust

State law requires owners or operators of a construction site or other source of fugitive dust to take reasonable precautions to prevent fugitive dust from becoming airborne, and to operate the source to minimize emissions. It is illegal to cause or permit fugitive dust to cross property lines and affect another person's health, property or business, or interfere with the use and enjoyment of another person's property. Precautions must be taken to prevent dust from being tracked onto paved public roads in and around construction sites..

Dust control measures

A complete list and description of dust control measures is available upon request. Some suggestions include the following:

- Use phased development to keep the disturbed area to a minimum
- Schedule thorough and consistent watering that does not run off the site
- Use wind fencing
- Plant vegetative cover
- Apply approved chemical stabilizers
- Restrict traffic on the site
- Reduce vehicle speed
- Cover piles

Open burning

Only natural vegetation is legal to burn. Burning construction debris, paper, cardboard, treated wood, garbage, rubber products, petroleum products, plastics, asphalt, metal, and dead animals is illegal. Burning any prohibited material in a handwarming fire or for disposal purposes is also illegal.

Outdoor burning is one of the major sources of air pollution in eastern Washington. Consider alternative methods of disposing of building and construction debris, such as chipping and grinding for land clearing debris. Leftover construction materials may be recycled.

For more information on prohibited materials, see Ecology focus sheet #FA-94-04, "Open Burning: Prohibited Materials." You may obtain this focus sheet at the address listed below.

Wood Heating Devices

It is illegal to install an uncertified wood burning device or wood stove. All new wood stoves and fireplace inserts sold in the United States must be tested and labeled according to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. By January 1997, design standards will be included in state building codes for construction of new masonry and factory-built fireplaces. For a list of certified wood stoves, please call one of the numbers listed below.

Technical Assistance and Enforcement

Ecology will provide technical assistance upon request. To receive assistance, please call one of the numbers listed below. Violations of the state's air quality regulations may result in issuance of a notice of violation, order, or civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day, per violation.

For More Information

For technical assistance or more information on fugitive dust and dust control measures, open burning or wood stoves call:

Donna Smith (509) 454-7660
Ecology Central Regional Office
Yakima

Greg Flibbert (509) 456-3114
Ecology Eastern Regional Office
Spokane

OR

your local air pollution control agency listed below.

In Spokane County, call the Spokane County Clean Air Authority at (509) 456-4727.

In Benton County, call the Benton County Clean Air Authority at (509) 943-3396.

In Yakima County, call the Yakima County Clean Air Authority at (509) 574-1410.

In western Washington, contact your local air pollution control agency.

For Ecology publications call the Publications Office at (360) 407-7472, or write to:
Ecology Publications, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600.

If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in alternative format, please call Christine Sund at (509) 454-7845 (voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD).